CLAIMS

1. A self-checkout lane for goods transactions in a retail outlet, the self-checkout lane comprising a processor, an incoming goods path for receiving goods; first and second goods collection zones in communication with the incoming goods path; and a segregation device operable under the control of the processor to divert goods from the incoming goods path into one of the goods collection zones; wherein the incoming goods path includes a product scanner electrically coupled to the processor and operable to evaluate the total retail price of a plurality of goods; each segregated goods collection zone being at least partially bounded by a barrier device operable under the control of the processor to selectively prevent a customer from accessing the goods contained therein; and wherein the processor is configured:

   (a) to operate the barrier device to prevent a first customer from accessing their goods from a goods collection zone until they have been paid for; and, once the first customer has paid for their goods,

   (b) to operate the barrier device to enable the first customer to access their goods, and

   (c) to operate the segregation device such that the first customer may remove their goods from their goods collection zone whilst a second customer introduces their goods to the incoming goods path.

2. A self-checkout lane as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each goods collection zone includes an integral weighing scale

electrically coupled to the processor, and wherein, for a given transaction, the processor is further configured to calculate a total weight of the said goods received in the incoming goods path and to compare the calculated total weight of the goods with a measured total weight of the same goods, the measured total weight being measured using an integral weighing scale once the goods are received in a goods collection zone.

3. A self-checkout lane as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a weighing scale in a goods collection zone is positioned beneath a conveyor.

4. A method of retailing using a self-checkout lane having an incoming goods path, first and second goods collection zones, and a segregation device operable to divert goods from the incoming goods path into one of the goods collection zones, the method being controlled by a processor and comprising the steps:

(a) receiving a first customer's goods into the incoming goods path;

(b) transferring the first customer's goods into the first goods collection zone;

(c) receiving payment from the first customer for the goods in the first goods collection zone;

(d) operating the segregation device in order to divert goods into the second goods collection zone; and

(e) receiving a second customer's goods into the incoming goods path;

wherein the step of receiving the second customer's goods
is undertaken whilst the first customer removes his goods
from the first goods collection zone.

5. A method of detecting misappropriation of goods in a
self-checkout lane in a store, the self-checkout lane
having an incoming goods path and a goods collection
zone, and goods being passed, in service, from the
incoming goods path into the goods collection zone; the
incoming goods path including a product scanner
electrically coupled to a processor, and the goods
collection zone including a weighing scale electrically
coupled to the processor; the method being performed by a
processor and comprising the steps:

(a)   receiving input from the product scanner identifying
goods introduced by a customer into the incoming
goods path;

(c)   calculating, by referring to a record of product
weights, a total weight value representative of the
total weight of the goods introduced into the
incoming goods path;

(d)   receiving input from the weighing scale specifying
the total weight of the goods once received in the
goods collection zone; and

(e)   comparing the said total weight value with the said
total weight of the goods and calculating any
discrepancy between the said weights.

6.   A method of detecting misappropriation of goods as
claimed in Claim 5 wherein, if the said discrepancy is

greater than a predetermined value, the method further comprises notifying store personnel or operating an alarm.